UCSF
Newsbreak

News for the UCSF Campus Community

VOL. 13, NO. 10 MAY 8, 1998

INSIDE

2 School of Medicine to honor two top alumni at homecoming

4-5 National experts share latest on breast cancer

7 UCSF Stanford Health Care launches ad campaign

Cinco de Mayo screenings

Marc Hellerstein, associate professor of medicine, right, supervises UCSF medical students, from left, Michael Fogli, Michael Dimyan and Maya Strange in providing diabetes testing and blood pressure checks to passersby during a Cinco de Mayo health fair on May 3 at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza. UCSF's team of health care professionals, coordinated by UCSF Public Service Programs, also included dental students and Nelson Artiga-Diaz, director of the UCSF Family Dental Center at SFGH, as well as nursing students, staff and faculty.

Lisa Cisneros

The road from Hunters Point to Cherokee chief

By PAULA MURPHY

A recent recipient of the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, Wilma Mankiller blended equal parts humility, humor and honesty to captivate her large Cole Hall audience on Monday. The first woman to become chief of a major Native American tribe, Mankiller talked about her years living in San Francisco, the road to becoming a leader, and the dangers of stereotyping people and cultures.

Her long-awaited visit — she was originally scheduled to give the Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration keynote address in January but was forced to cancel because of illness — began with tribal drumming and ended with Supervisor Amos Brown proclaiming it "Wilma Mankiller Day" in San Francisco.

Now cancer-free and awaiting a kidney transplant, Mankiller began her talk discussing "how a young woman who lived in Hunters Point" became chief of the Cherokee Nation. She said that she had little self-confidence and low self-esteem but was encouraged by others to go to college, speak her mind and run for office.

When she was 10, her family moved from Oklahoma to San Francisco as part of a government relocation program — a program that she sees as the government's attempt to tear apart rural, Native American communities. Her father's generation was taught that "they had to leave behind their sense of being Cherokee to be successful in the world," she said. "In the late 60s and early 70s people began to reject that notion."

Mankiller said that living in the Bay Area during that time period changed her profoundly, and that the civil rights movement, in particular the Black Panthers and the Native American occupation of Alcatraz, taught her about self-sufficiency.

"To see people stand up and say we don't have to take this, we can take things into our own hands, that had a tremendous impact on me," Mankiller said. "Tribal people and poor people in general have a better capacity to solve their own problems than given credit for."

Mankiller moved back to Oklahoma in 1976 and in 1982 was elected deputy chief of the Cherokee tribe. Although she made history by becoming the first woman to be elected principal chief, she said that women have traditionally played leadership roles in Native American culture. "My election was a step back into tribal tradition and also a step forward for tribal women," Mankiller said.

One of the biggest issues facing tribal people today, Mankiller said, is how to retain their cultural identity while also interacting with the world around them. She said that Native American culture is continually evolving but it retains a core set of values, specifically a sense of interdependence with people and nature. "In America people are increasingly isolating themselves from one another," Mankiller said. "I think that's a terrible mistake and think it's something Native Americans can share with the greater community."

Growing up in Hunters Point, Mankiller learned that the stereotypes she heard about black people, who were the overwhelming majority in her neighborhood, were wrong. She has fought stereotypes ever since, often by example and with a great sense of humor.

"People are always enormously disappointed when they meet me because I'm not handing out crystals or am not laden with Native American jewelry," Mankiller said. "I hope my appearance here today helps you erase any stereotypes you have about what a chief looks like."

On creating a more congenial campus

By LISA CISNEROS

In the words of Rodney King, David Bell asks faculty, staff and students, "Why can't we all just get along?"

As chair-elect of the UCSF Staff Council for 1998-99, Bell wants to raise the level of congeniality on campus.

No matter what your position in the University, he says, the responsibility for fostering a harmonious work environment should be shared by all. "We all have jobs and we all have a mission. What we all need to have are values. First and foremost, we should value a culture that starts with civility."

With the goal of raising the consciousness of the campus community to be polite and courteous to their colleagues, the UCSF Staff Council invites faculty, staff and students to an upcoming presentation, "The Civility Dilemma," by Stephen Barker, faculty assistant to the Chancellor and director of the School of the Arts Program in Interdisciplinary Studies at UC Irvine. Barker will speak on how to develop effective working relationships among diverse subcultures on Thursday, May 21, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in HSW 301. A question-and-answer session will conclude the program.

"Staff Council has taken on this initiative as part of the Chancellor's campuswide effort to create a more supportive work environment," Bell says. "The issue of civility touches all of our lives. We need to find ways to communicate with each other so that we can better serve the public and our clients. That takes cooperation among faculty, staff and students."

Dorothy Bainton, vice chancellor for academic affairs, agrees that improving the quality of life on campus depends on individual acts of kindness.

(See **Civility** on page 7)

City's Mission Bay environmental impact report up for review

By LISA CISNEROS

San Francisco citizens will have an opportunity on Tuesday to voice their opinions about the City's environmental impact report for development of the entire 303-acre site at Mission Bay.

Anyone may appear at the joint public hearing of the San Francisco Planning Commission and Redevelopment Agency, which meets at about 4 p.m. on May 12 at 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 404.

Addressing issues such as traffic congestion, air pollution and the potential for danger posed by hazardous materials, the three-volume "Mission Bay Subsequent Environmental Impact Report" (SEIR) evaluates myriad environmental effects of the proposed project located near the eastern shoreline of San Francisco.

"The project raises concerns about preexisting conditions, such as air quality and traffic, which are already problematic in the Bay Area," says Michelle Schaefer, who as environmental coordinator for UCSF's campus planning office was one of numerous experts consulted for the report.

The entire project, sponsored by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and Catellus Development Corporation, which owns the majority of property within the project area, would change Mission Bay from an underdeveloped industrial area with large vacant railyards to a fully developed mixed use urban area with about 30,000 employees and about 11,000 residents at full buildout.

Besides a UCSF campus, the development plan calls for about 6,000 housing units both for rental and for sale, retail space, research and development, light manufacturing and office space, a 500-room hotel, a public school site and about 47 acres of public parks, including at least eight acres of open space on the UCSF campus.

"We are pleased with the number of housing units being proposed, but hope that a large number of the units are set aside as affordable housing, rather than market rate," says Bruce Spaulding, vice chancellor of University Advancement and Planning.

It's expected that the presence of the UCSF campus would attract new business ventures involved in research and development, such as biotechnology firms, to the surrounding area.

The draft report proposes that two rede-

(See **Mission Bay** on page 6)

UCSF'S ELECTRONIC DAILY
UCSF daybreak

Daybreak celebrates birthday with redesign

Daybreak, UCSF's electronic daily, is celebrating its first birthday. And it's time for a rebirth of sorts. On Wednesday, May 20, we'll launch a redesigned website, with added features, streamlined content and a new look. We hope these changes make Daybreak easier to use and more enjoyable to read.

Some of the features of the revamped website include a search engine, expanded arts coverage and an index of Newsbreak articles.

Thanks to all of the loyal readers who made Daybreak's first year a success. And to the uninitiated, we look forward to making Daybreak an important part of your day. On May 20, please visit us at www.ucsf.edu/daybreak.

— Daybreak Editorial Team

School of Medicine to honor two as alumni of the year

The UCSF School of Medicine will honor Eugene S. Kilgore Jr., Class of 1949, and John S. Geyman, Class of 1960, with the 1998 Alumnus of the Year Award.

The awards will be presented to them on Saturday, May 9, at the School's homecoming lecture program in Cole Hall.

The award is presented annually to a graduate who is recognized as an outstanding physician and for exemplary research and teaching, community service and contributions to the University.

John Geyman

Considered a pioneer in family practice medicine today, Geyman was president of his class in 1960 when he was awarded the Gold-Headed Cane Award at graduation ceremonies. After an internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital, he was one of the very few to do a general practice residency at Community Hospital of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa and then start a solo general practice in Shasta, offering a full range of medical services, from delivering babies to assisting in surgery.

With the birth of family practice in the late 1960s, the general practice program in Santa Rosa became one of the first in the country to convert to a family practice residency. Asked to be its first director, Geyman oversaw the building of a large new family practice center and developed a formal affiliation with UCSF.

He left Santa Rosa in 1972 and moved to Davis to serve as a professor in the new department of family practice. A year later, he founded and became first editor of *The Journal of Family Practice,* the major journal in the field. Four years later, Geyman moved to Seattle, where he became professor of family practice and chair of the department of family medicine at the University of Washington. Under his leadership, the department became a top family practice department, establishing outstanding research, education and clinical programs. He retired from the university in 1993 when he returned to private practice. Now editor of The Journal of the American Board of Family Practice, Geyman teaches part-time at the University of Washington, where he's taking classes in public health.

"Through his own example, his writings and editorials, and his leadership, John Geyman has helped provide the field of family medicine an academic bridgehead, which, in turn, helped awaken the country to the need for generalist physicians," says Jonathan Rodnick, chair of family and community medicine at UCSF.

Eugene Kilgore

Regarded as a legendary teacher who has taught generations of students and residents the art of medical and surgical practice, Kilgore was born and raised in San Francisco. With a father who was a prominent cardiologist, a mother who was a nurse, and an uncle, Alson Kilgore, who was a clinical professor of surgery at UCSF, Kilgore learned very early on that "medicine is a profession of giving."

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Kilgore served in the US Army Infantry, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel and receiving the Bronze Star for distinguished service.

At the end of the war, he returned to San Francisco and attended UCSF, where he was awarded the Gold-Headed Cane Award upon his graduation. Kilgore then served a medical internship at Boston City Hospital and a residency at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, where he trained in reconstructive hand surgery under the distinguished hand surgeon William Littler.

Kilgore came back to San Francisco in 1955, when he joined the clinical faculty at UCSF. He practiced general surgery while specializing in hand surgery. For decades, he directed hand services at the University hospital, the Veterans Administration Medical Center and at San Francisco General Hospital, where he was on call for hand injuries every night for more than two decades.

Together with his partner surgeon Bill Newmeyer, Kilgore established the San Francisco Hand Fellowship and trained 34 fellows in hand surgery.

Lisa Cisneros

A delivery day bonus

UCSF Faculty Associates Nancy Douglass, left, and Barbara Hassid led their group in the effort to gather and assemble 60 packages of essential items to give to teen mothers of the Young Women's Clinic on the day they deliver their babies at UCSF. A diaper bag, T-shirts, first aid book, Desitin ointment as well as toiletries for mom were included in bright colorful bags to be used as incentives for the young women to regularly seek medical care for themselves and their babies. The UCSF Faculty Associates also provides UCSF students with loans and scholarships.

Pat Cruz

Clinical pharmacy awards three

From left, George Tse, Mauraan Schultz and Scott Fields receive the 1998 Frances Valerie Louie Award for Service Excellence at a department of clinical pharmacy ceremony on April 29. Tse was recognized for superior work as a pharmacy technician. Schultz received accolades for going the extra mile to obtain drugs on short notice and during shortages and Fields was praised for his creativity in providing more service with the same resources. The award is named after Frances "Val" Louie, a 1972 graduate of the UCSF School of Pharmacy, who worked as a staff pharmacist in the inpatient pharmacy.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received April 11-25, 1998.

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School of Medicine hosts homecoming awards luncheon

Several graduates and alumni will be honored at the School of Medicine Homecoming awards luncheon at noon on Saturday, May 16 in the Millberry Union Conference Center.

Arzou Ahsan, Lynne Bartholomew and Denise Shushan of the Class of 1998 will each receive the Sadie Berkove Award, which is given to outstanding women graduates from the School of Medicine.

Anda Juo, '98, will receive the Robert H. Crede Student Award, presented to a medical student who "most exemplifies the personal and professional characteristics of a primary care physician."

The Alumni-Faculty Association Academic Excellence Awards will be presented to Class of 1998 classmates Josh Schindler and Zian Tseng for exhibiting excellent work in all areas of medical school. The Alumni-Faculty Association Student Service award will be given to Monica Quezada, '98, who has volunteered extensively in the community.

In addition to the student awards, the Class of 1948 will be honored by initiation into the Half-Century Club. Tickets to the luncheon are $20 and advance registration is required. For more information, call the Alumni-Faculty Association at 476-1471.

Thoracic Society awards Sheppard

Dean Sheppard, director of the UCSF Lung Biology Center at San Francisco General Hospital, has received a top honor from the American Thoracic Society.

In ceremonies April 27, the Society presented its 1998 scientific accomplishment award to Sheppard in recognition of "contributions to the understanding, prevention, and treatment of lung disease." The presentation took place during the combined international meeting of the society and the American Lung Association.

A pulmonary specialist, Sheppard has spent most of his career studying the link between asthma and the environment. His findings have had a major impact on the setting of federal and state air pollution emission standards.

His research focuses on the role of a particular group of cells — known as the epithelium — that line the airway passages leading to the lungs. These cells are key players in the repair process following an airway injury, and the process appears to be central to the development of chronic asthma, which is estimated to affect more than 12 million Americans.

Through ongoing studies, Sheppard's laboratory has been able to identify, clone, and characterize the function of novel receptors on epithelial cells that help orchestrate the lung's response to injury and inflammation. Understanding these mechanisms is important for developing new asthma treatments and for helping to explain the increase in prevalence and severity of the disease, especially among underserved populations in urban areas.

A resident of Oakland, Sheppard was appointed to the UCSF faculty in 1981 and has served at SFGH since that time. He earned his MD degree at SUNY-Stonybrook and his bachelor's degree at Harvard.

Honors & Awards

Frank Hinman Jr., clinical professor of urology: Awarded the Keyes Medal for outstanding contributions in the advancement of urology by the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons at their 112th meeting in Virginia. His father, Frank Hinman Sr., the first chair of urology at UCSF, received the award in 1954. This is the first time the award has been given to both father and son. The Keyes Medal is named in honor of Edward L. Keyes, the founder of the urological association, the first of its kind.

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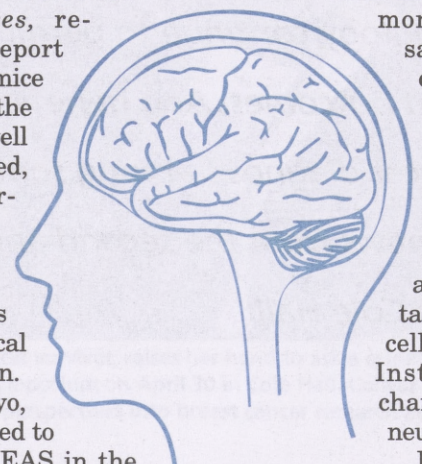
Researchers look at role of DHEA in brain development

By JEFFREY NORRIS

Despite the popularity of popping DHEA pills among dietary supplement enthusiasts in search of a fountain of youth, the naturally occurring form of DHEA has never been shown to be anything more than a way station on the biochemical trail leading to production of more exciting compounds, such as the sex hormones testosterone and estrogen.

But in the April 14 issue of *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,* researchers at UCSF report that in the brains of mice — and very likely in the brains of humans as well — DHEA and a related, sulfur-containing version of the compound, called DHEAS, can stimulate the growth of nerve cell fibers needed to form electrical connections in the brain.



In the mouse embryo, enzymes that are needed to make DHEA and DHEAS in the brain are located at brain sites where nerve cells extend branches to connect the thalamus to more highly evolved regions in the brain's cortex, the UCSF researchers have determined.

Nerve cells from the cortex maintained in laboratory cultures are stimulated differently by DHEA — short for dyhydroepiandrosterone — and by DHEAS, according to Synthia H. Mellon, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, and assistant research scientist Nathalie A. Compagnone.

DHEA fosters the growth of fibers that transmit signals to other nerve cells, while DHEAS stimulates growth of fibers that receive signals from other nerve cells, the UCSF researchers discovered. These growth-stimulating properties appear in cells that undergo rapid biochemical changes in response to DHEA and DHEAS.

"These studies provide evidence that DHEA and DHEAS exert biological actions and are not simply sex hormone precursors," Mellon says. "The regulated production of DHEA and DHEAS in the embryonic brain may play a crucial role in organizing neural connections.

"DHEA and DHEAS do not appear to be slow-acting hormones that attach to specific receptors on cells like classic hormones. Instead they cause rapid changes in nerve cells, like neurotransmitters do."

DHEA has primarily been thought of as a compound made by the adrenal glands, which sit atop the kidneys. The adrenal gland's production of DHEA, which is converted into sex hormones, peaks at about age 20, at higher levels in men than women. Thereafter, blood concentrations of DHEA decline steadily throughout adulthood in both sexes, typically dropping to 15 to 20 percent of youthful levels in old age. This decline has led researchers to search for an association among blood levels of DHEA, signs of aging, and diseases associated with aging.

In animal studies that may be relevant to investigations of memory impairment in Alzheimer's, old mice — which normally perform poorly in learning tests with mazes — were able to learn as well as young mice when given DHEA with their drinking water, according to Owen Wolkowitz, a professor of psychiatry.

Wolkowitz and UCSF colleague Louann Brizendine, associate clinical professor of psychiatry, are now conducting clinical trials to investigate any potential benefits of DHEA in Alzheimer's patients and in individuals who are clinically depressed. In a preliminary study, Wolkowitz found that depressed DHEA recipients reported improved psychological well-being and mood, and that they had better recall in tests of memory.

The new research findings by Compagnone and Mellon raise many questions about the role of DHEA and the related sulfur-containing compound, DHEAS, in normal brain development, in the maintenance of brain function in adulthood and in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

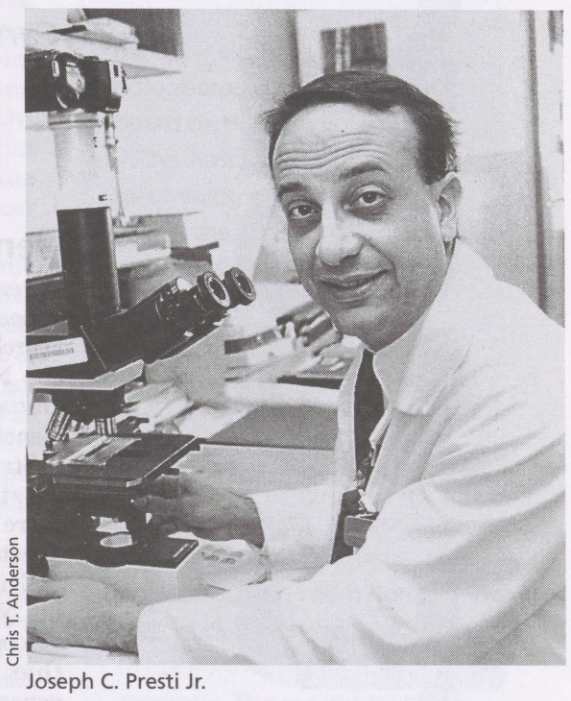
It also is not clear if DHEA and DHEAS made by the human adrenal gland act on the brain, or whether the brain continues to make its own supply of these steroids after the framework for the brain's neural architecture is completed about a year after birth, Mellon says.

VA Research Week promotes understanding

Highlighting how "research is good medicine," the San Francisco VA Medical Center celebrated research week to inform legislators, veterans and the public about the latest scientific advances.

Every April, VA medical centers across the country participate in research week with special events, health screenings and displays.

"Nationally, research funding for VA investigators is over half a billion dollars," says Diana Nicoll, SFVAMC chief of staff and UCSF associate dean. "The three largest VA research centers, West Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco, are all University of California affiliates. At SFVAMC, total research funding is $32 million, which supports nearly 120 principal investigators, both MDs and PhDs.



Chris T. Anderson

Joseph C. Presti Jr.

During a panel presentation, Joseph C. Presti Jr., chief of urology and UCSF assistant professor of urology, was one of six SFVAMC principal investigators to share their recent work. Presti spoke about advances in the detection, staging and treatment of prostate cancer.

Stressing the importance of early diagnosis, Presti described his research on performance variations among diagnostic tests for prostate cancer. Specifically, Presti has demonstrated that the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), and the same test corrected for prostate size (PSA density), are both more accurate in African-Americans than in Caucasians. This is an important finding because African-American men have both a higher incidence of the disease and experience earlier onset than Caucasian men.

Seeking ways to improve detection, Presti and his colleagues are working to refine biopsy strategies. Recently, Presti has shown that lateral biopsies of the prostate versus those taken randomly are 15 percent more accurate in detecting cancer. And for men with larger prostates, Presti has found that taking more biopsies increases the accuracy of detection 15 percent.

According to Presti, the SFVAMC is participating in several prostate cancer clinical trials. Two of the largest are the Prostate Cancer Intervention versus Observation Trial (PIVOT), a VA cooperative study, and the Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial run by the South West Oncology Group (SWOG). Clearly impressed with the willingness of veterans to participate in clinical trials, Presti said, "the SFVAMC's 400 randomized patients make it the third-largest accrual site nationwide for the SWOG prevention trial."

"The San Francisco VA offers state-of-the-art treatment options for men with localized prostate cancer," said Presti. San Francisco was one of the first VAs to offer cryotherapy, which involves localized freezing of prostate cancer cells. The implantation of radioactive "seeds," called brachytherapy, is another minimally invasive treatment offered at few other VA medical centers. In addition, the SFVAMC performs dozens of nerve-sparing radical prostatectomies every year.

Also, throughout the week, nearly 50 colorful posters illustrating ongoing research projects were prominently displayed around the Medical Center. Designed and produced in-house by a team of SFVAMC employees, the posters described a wide range of SFVAMC research projects and explained how the work is improving patient care.

— *James Larkin*

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

NEWS FROM PEDIATRICS

Study may benefit skin treatment for preemies

In a finding that could lead to breakthroughs in the treatment of premature infants with immature skin, UCSF scientists have identified hormone activators that stimulate skin development in premature rats.

"This may be an important finding for premature infants, who often lack a competent skin barrier," says Mary Williams, UCSF adjunct professor of dermatology and pediatrics. "An immature skin barrier can contribute to the illness and death of these premature infants."

Williams and her UCSF research colleagues, including co-investigator Kenneth Feingold, professor of medicine and dermatology, presented their findings on fetal skin development May 4 at the 1998 Pediatric Academic Societies' annual meeting.

Mammals normally are born with a competent skin barrier — skin that can prevent excessive water loss from the inside of the body to the outside air. This barrier is formed by the outermost layers of the skin, the multilayered stratum corneum, which consists of dead cells surrounded by sheets of fat. The stratum corneum is made by the epidermis, a layer of skin just beneath the stratum corneum that is made up of living cells.

But babies born under 32 weeks of gestation lack this barrier and have been shown to have a very thin stratum corneum, said Williams. "Without this barrier, these infants are susceptible to hypothermia, water loss, electrolyte imbalance, and infection," she says.

Previous studies on fetal rat skin cells by UCSF researchers have shown that formation of a competent barrier is accompanied by formation of a multilayered stratum corneum. Williams and research colleagues have previously shown that certain activators, molecules that bind to the surface or receptors of hormones, accelerate barrier formation. Some activators for hormone receptors, PPAR alpha and FXR, are generated in the skin itself, suggesting that the process of skin development may be regulated internally.

Given these findings, UCSF researchers studied whether activators of PPAR alpha and FXR accelerated the maturation of the stratum corneum and the epidermal barrier in fetal rats during normal gestation.

Rats, which have a normal gestation of 22 days, were injected with activators through the amniotic fluid at 17 days. Control groups received placebo injections that lacked activators. Premature rats were then delivered on day 19.

After measuring both structure and function of the skin barrier in the premature rats, researchers found that fetal rats which received the activators developed a competent barrier by 19 days. Normally a skin barrier does not develop in rats until 21 days. A distinct stratum corneum was present in treated rats while those in the control groups lacked a well-defined stratum corneum.

— *Lordelyn P. del Rosario*

Researchers identify genetic link to rickets

Last fall, researchers at UCSF announced that they had identified an elusive gene critical for vitamin D metabolism. Now they have identified mutations in that gene, paving the way for genetic diagnosis of a hereditary form of childhood rickets.

Further analysis of the gene, say the researchers, could lead to an understanding of other vitamin D deficiency disorders as well.

The finding, presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies' annual meeting, will even allow for prenatal diagnosis of the metabolic disorder known as vitamin D-dependent rickets. It will also allow for genetic testing of adults to determine whether they carry a latent form of the genetic mutation that could be passed on to their offspring.

"Identifying the genetic mutations that cause hereditary vitamin D-dependent rickets is likely to increase the number of diagnoses made of the condition, which will allow for earlier treatment," says Walter Miller, professor of pediatrics and senior author of the study.

"And being able to genetically diagnose adults as carriers of the mutated gene," he adds, "will enable us to alert parents to the possibility that their future offspring may carry the disease. This way the children can be evaluated for the disorder and, if necessary, begin treatment early in life."

Children with hereditary vitamin D-dependent rickets cannot metabolize vitamin D to its active hormonal form and, as a result, have difficulty growing healthy bone. They develop poorly, have abnormal teeth and develop rickets, or deformed bones. The condition is corrected by treatment with a synthetic form of the active vitamin D hormone.

The researchers carried out their study by examining samples of DNA collected from 20 patients in 18 different families from around the world. They identified nine mutations in the gene, known as P4501 alpha, and determined that these mutations give rise to truncated enzymes that are unable to carry out their catalytic activity.

The researchers are now examining the various P4501 alpha mutations in cultured cells, with the intent of trying to identify correlations between specific forms of the mutation and the resulting enzyme activity. Ultimately, they hope to link specific errors in the enzyme to specific clinical manifestations in individual patients.

— *Jennifer O'Brien*

Breast cancer

The battle against the most common lethal malignancy among women — affecting one in nine — is fraught with imperfection and speculation, experts testified last week.

Yet progress is anything but stymied. Trends such as shared decision making among patients and the health care community are paving the way for mutually satisfying treatment and research. Advances in MRI technology continue to permit improved imaging of tumors resulting in better treatment outcomes. And genetic testing is beginning to demystify the dreaded breast cancer diagnosis among some families hardest hit by the disease. Here is some of the news from the second annual UCSF Cancer Center Symposium held last Thursday in Cole Hall.

Genetic testing

Determining just how cancerous "cancer genes" really are is the goal of senior research investigator Jeffery Struewing of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics.

Struewing and colleagues are taking creative scientific approaches to find more accurate answers to questions of genetic cancer risk.

Evidence published by Struewing and his NCI colleagues in the *New England Journal of Medicine* last May suggests that mutations in the breast cancer genes BRCA1 and BRCA2 are somewhat less deadly than originally reported.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are present in less than one percent of the US population, but in certain families, especially among Ashkenazi Jews, the genes are much more common and are associated with early breast cancer, as well as ovarian and prostate cancer, Struewing says.

Many, but not all, who carry mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 develop cancer. Other aspects of an individual's genetic make-up and environmental factors, including diet, may influence the risk for developing cancer. Naturally, many members of families that carry these BRCA mutations are interested in knowing the likelihood that they or their loved ones will in fact be afflicted.

Unfortunately, Streuwing says, "We still can't give someone a precise estimate of their risk of cancer."

Although understanding risk is just one of the issues raised by the ability to identify cancer genes, Struewing points out that the issue is destined to remain an important one as more cancer genes are discovered and as the ability to screen for cancer-associated genetic abnormalities improves.

Struewing says the medical community should consider the clinical usefulness of genetic testing, weighing the psychological and social impact as well as the likelihood of a meaningful result.

"We don't know what to tell an individual to prevent cancer," he says.

The NCI researchers determined that the risk of a woman's developing breast cancer as a result of carrying one of the BRCA mutations was lower than previously estimated, about 56 percent by age 70. Struewing suggests that despite the improved estimate, his sample still included a disproportionate number of families affected by cancer.

To address the challenge of overcoming this sampling bias, scientists are turning to populations that are relatively genetically isolated, as in Iceland. By focusing on Icelanders and other isolated populations, scientists are aided in their genetracking and risk assessment by the availability of large, representative study groups and by the relatively small and uncomplicated gene pool preserved from the time of the founders.

— Jeffrey Norris

Tiles created by cancer patients at the UCSF Cancer Center healing garden

Breast cancer imaging

New applications for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) holds promise for breast cancer research and treatment, says Laura Esserman, director of the Breast Care Center at UCSF and assistant professor of surgery.

Esserman's clinical research team has found that MRI can provide valuable information that breast cancer patients and their doctors can use to make decisions about surgery or chemotherapy.

For example, animal studies show how MRI can monitor the efficacy of a new class of drugs intended to cut off the blood supply to growing tumors.

The beauty of MRI is that it's nontoxic, easy to tolerate and is more precise than mammography, Esserman says.

As measured by longterm survival, several studies have demonstrated that — for smaller breast tumors that have not spread to lymph nodes — surgical removal of the cancerous tissue is as effective as removing the entire breast.

With more women choosing less invasive surgery or using chemotherapy to shrink tumors prior to surgery, it becomes increasingly important to define adequately the boundaries of tumor tissue, so that the tumor can be removed while healthy breast tissue is preserved, Esserman notes.

Esserman and colleagues have determined that MRI can be used to define more precisely the boundaries of already diagnosed breast tumors. This information can be used to save as much healthy breast tissue during surgery as possible and to reduce the incidence of repeated surgery to remove previously missed tumor cells.

Through pre-operative use of MRI, women may be able to avoid a mastectomy — removal of the entire breast. A woman with extensive disease throughout the breast might also be spared from several procedures if the extent of disease is known prior to the first surgical procedure, Esserman says.

Esserman's research group also is

Chris T. Anderson

Deborah Collyar, a breast cancer survivor, raises her hand to ask a question during the second annual UCSF Cancer Center Symposium on April 30 in Cole Hall. Collyar is working on several fronts to incorporate patient perspectives into breast cancer research and treatment.

studying the value of MRI for evaluating the effectiveness of chemotherapy drugs used prior to surgery to treat more advanced breast cancer.

"Now that we know the choice of lumpectomy or mastectomy does not affect survival, we must focus on ways in which we can further minimize discomfort and disfiguration and the number of interventions for those who suffer from breast cancer," Esserman says.

Esserman also described the efforts of her team to develop MRI as a tool to assess more quickly the value of experimental treatments. She says a new study to evaluate a vaccine targeted against the HER2 breast cancer gene, is now in preclinical development as a treatment for ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a commonly diagnosed type of breast cancer.

— Jeffrey Norris

Patient advocacy

Two-time breast cancer survivor Deborah E. Collyar is among those working to see that breast cancer patient are heard.

Collyar, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1990, says that when treating and researching cancer, the medical community often focuses solely on the disease and fails to incorporate patients' perspectives into their approach.

"Our medical system often focuses on the problem, and everyone treated with cancer sometime during their journey feels like the disease, not a person with a disease," says Collyar. "We are trying to incorporate patients' perspectives into research, which is important for both the patients and medical community, because it helps patients move forward in a healing process."

As president of the Patient Advocacy in Research (PAIR) group and director of the Clinical Trials Information Project (CTIP) and the Advocacy Core program, Collyar is working with UCSF Cancer Center researchers on a project that is designed to better understand and to alleviate the barriers that prevent many women with breast cancer from participating in clinical studies that may advance treatment of the disease.

Participation for breast cancer clinical trials remains low because many women, for a variety of reasons, are reluctant to enroll in the studies, says Collyar.

The Advocacy Core program supports the San Francisco Breast SPORE research program, which is a National Cancer Institute funded project started in 1992 that translates scientific discoveries into clinical research. The Core program has more than 100 members and conducts focus groups, projects and activities that are designed to determine what breast cancer patients believe to be the most important issues in breast cancer research and treatments.

According to Collyar, a major issue among women with breast cancer is that information garnered from genetic testing is not safeguarded from the threat of loss of health and life insurance and potential job discrimination for those who test positive. "We don't have the legislative protection we need to prevent people from the misuse of the information," she says.

Although it is illegal in California for insurance companies to consider a precancerous susceptibility as a pre-existing condition for medical insurance, the worry remains. Protection against such discrimination is not guaranteed, according to legal experts.

— Abby Sinnott

UCSF Cancer Center offers support and information

UCSF offers a wide range of support groups and programs designed to make life a little easier for cancer patients and their loved ones.

The Ida & Joseph Friend Cancer Resource Center houses books and audio tapes and video tapes available for check out. The Center can also help cancer patients find information about their condition, treatment options, nutrition, pain management, stress reduction and other health matters.

Here's a sampling of what's offered at the Cancer Center:

- Genetic testing and counseling: The UCSF Cancer Center became one of the first in the Bay Area last year to offer confidential patient counseling and testing for the genes that are linked to inherited breast and ovarian cancer. Contact Betty Crawford at 885-7779.
- Friends & Family Support Group: A 12-week group for family and friends of people dealing with cancer. Contact Debra Marks at 885-7415, ext. 42529.
- DCIS Support Group: A 12-week support group for women with Ductal Carcinoma In Situ. Contact Debra Marks at 885-7415, ext. 42529.
- Personal Support & Lifestyle Intervention Trial: A 12-week research program to study the effects of two kinds of lifestyle and personal support interventions on mood, health, and well-being. Contact Kristie Dold at 885-7877.
- Exercise & Physiology Class: Meets Tuesdays, 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. and Thursdays, 9:45 to 11:15 p.m., Mount Zion Cardiac Care Gym, first floor, room C 101. Enter at 2200 Post St. at Scott Street. Contact the Resource Center at 885-3693.
- Art for Recovery/Breast Cancer Quilt Project: Express feelings through art. Contact Cindy Perlis at 885-7221.
- Healing Garden: Plant flowers and shrubs in a beautiful garden maintained by patients. Contact the Resource Center at 885-3693.
- Spiritual Counseling: Chaplains are available to provide patients support and assist in coping with bereavement. Contact the department of pastoral care at 885-7786.
- Cancer Center Forum: The Resource Center presents "Health Insurance: Understand Your Options and Plan Ahead," Monday, June 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Cancer Research Building, 2340 Sutter St., 1st floor conference room, S 173. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. RSVP at the Resource Center at 885-3693.

To receive a monthly mailing of additional resources, call the Resource Center, 2356 Sutter St., second floor, room J 223, at 885-3693.

Breast cancer screenings

Women* can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from the UCSF mobile van that was designed to make mammography both available and affordable to women with no known breast problems.

Accredited by the American College of Radiology and the Food and Drug Administration, the van travels to Bay Area locations offering mammograms taken by certified female technologists and interpreted by board certified radiologists.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women between the ages of 40 and 49 should have a mammography exam every one to two years. Women aged 50 and over should have a mammogram annually.

To be screened by the UCSF van, women need the approval of their physician, in addition to their doctor's full name, address (including room number & zip code) and phone number to assure that results are mailed promptly. The procedure takes about 20 minutes and costs $75, which is payable at time of service by personal check, Visa or Mastercard. Call 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment.

Listed are dates when the van will be at UCSF locations. Call 476-2193 for a full schedule.

- May 8: Parnassus in front of the library.
- May 15: Lakeshore Plaza, 1501-1599 Sloat Blvd.
- May 22: Lakeside Senior Center, 2501 Ocean Ave.
- May 26-28: Laurel Heights, 3333 California St.
- May 29: Lakeshore Plaza, 1501-1599 Sloat Blvd.

*It's recommended that women with breast implants have a diagnostic mammogram, which cannot be done in the UCSF van.

Students take turns teaching science to their peers

By ANDY EVANGELISTA

The tables were turned for teams of San Francisco students who took teaching into their own hands as part of a unique partnership between UCSF and local schools.

And on Monday, the report cards will be tallied. But in the annual Science and Health Lesson Plan Contest, sponsored by the UCSF Science and Health Education Partnership (SEP), it's the teachers who will be graded for their presentations.

The contest began a few weeks ago when Washington High School seniors taught Presidio Middle School sixth-graders about air pressure and it ended last Friday when eighth-graders from Gloria R. Davis Academic Middle School presented a lesson on "Seeing is Believing" to fifth-graders at George Washington Carver Elementary.

In all, 34 teams of San Francisco public school students — 14 from high schools and 20 from middle schools — were teachers for a day. The aim of the contest, now in its eleventh year, is to get students working in groups to experience the fun of science and to understand a subject well enough to explain it to younger students.

This year, topics ranged from the traditional "Acids and Bases" and "Paper Recycling" to such catchy titles as "Ratty Insides," "Up Your Nose," and "The Yucky but Cool, Gross but Interesting Cow's Eye."

The students are coached by their teachers from the San Francisco Unified School District, and volunteer UCSF scientists and staff judge the presentations.

The winning teams, who will share $2,500 in prize money, will be announced at a ceremony on Monday, May 11, at 4 p.m., in Cole Hall. A reception will follow at 5:30 p.m.

"This year we recruited many new judges from different areas of the campus," says Helen Doyle, SEP coordinator for middle school activities. "It's a great way for UCSF folks to get involved in SEP and to get a first-hand look at San Francisco's schools and students."

Doyle has been impressed with the presentations this year. A session by seventh-graders at Horace Mann Academic Middle School taught fifth-graders at Edward R. Taylor Elementary School, for example, about the challenges faced by people with disabilities. "The students learned to write braille, tried to write with their non-dominant hand, read stories, and heard one of the Mann students talk about her disability, cerebral palsy, for which she uses a wheelchair and a word processor," says Doyle. Those and other students have shown "amazing teaching skills, incredible maturity and poise in teaching difficult topics."

One teacher from Roosevelt Middle School had her entire sixth-grade class participating in the contest. "She notes that the students behave differently in class after their lesson — they are more mature and confident," says Doyle. "She thinks the team building experience, as well as the rewards of having younger students learn from them, is just as important as the science the students learn in researching their lesson."

Mission Bay (from page 1)

velopment areas divided by China Basin Channel be established: Mission Bay North, where much of the housing and retail space is planned, and Mission Bay South, where UCSF's campus is to be located.

UCSF's 43-acre campus of land donated by Catellus and the City near Third and 16th streets would encompass 2.65 million square feet of research laboratories, classrooms, lecture halls, administrative offices, recreational and open space as well as 4,600 parking spaces.

Implementing the conditions presented in the SEIR requires changes to the City's general plan, planning code and zoning map and numerous other approvals by City, regional and state agencies.

UCSF, which is constitutionally exempt from local planning and zoning controls, prepared its own environmental impact report of Mission Bay. That document was adopted by the UC Regents last year as part of the University's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). Using the LRDP, UCSF is proceeding with its plans to develop the new campus, explains Schaefer.

Chief among the LRDP's primary goals and objectives is that UCSF build a Mission Bay campus that is "suitable, flexible, safe and attractive for its occupants." Another objective is that UCSF plan for growth consistent with city planning and zoning codes, all applicable land use plans and mitigation approaches, while respecting specific neighborhood plans and concerns.

UCSF is currently working with a number of individuals and organizations to satisfy the mutual interests of the community and the campus in the development of Mission Bay. For example, UCSF's Community Advisory Group of neighbors and civic leaders, formed in 1992 to advise on the LRDP, has been reconstituted to include neighbors from the areas surrounding Mission Bay to provide campus decision makers with continual feedback on the project.

Transportation planner Andy Nash, is a CAG member who is concerned about traffic around the campus, especially when the baseball stadium opens nearby. "The University and the Community Advisory Group all agreed on a list of goals and objectives in the LRDP and that really is a significant document with a lot of good policies," says Nash. "Today, the rubber is hitting the road and we have to see that the University stays true to those intentions."

Indeed, UCSF plans to encourage public transportation to minimize impact on local traffic as well as add shuttle service to the campus.

The Bay Area Life Sciences Alliance (BALSA), a not-for-profit public benefit corporation formed in 1996 to promote life sciences and biotechnology development in the Bay Area, is also assisting the University to promote, raise funds and continue the planning and development of Mission Bay. BALSA sponsored the selection of a master planning team for UCSF.

Architectural firms Machado and Silvetti Associates Inc. and Gordon H. Chong & Partners who won that competition are now working with campus planners, faculty and others on the preliminary master plan for the campus. Meanwhile, work on the first two buildings is proceeding with the selection of SMP/SHG and Solomon Architecture for design. Groundbreaking on the $1 billion campus is expected to begin late next year.

Although UCSF will rely on the LRDP and its environmental impact report to develop Mission Bay, the City SEIR is expected to be of benefit to UCSF, by providing more up-to-date information in areas such as land use, traffic and potential soil contamination, Schaefer says. Under land use, for example, the old Mission Bay Plan from 1990 does not include UCSF as part of the project. "The proposed redevelopment plans formally make UCSF not only consistent with other land use, but in fact a central feature of the south redevelopment area," Schaefer says.

UCSF expects to work closely with the City to adhere to safety requirements, and applicable laws and regulations in areas such as air quality and hazardous materials, where human health is of concern.

For example, UCSF's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) would establish a satellite office to perform the responsibilities it currently performs at UCSF's existing sites where hazardous materials are used.

And as described in UCSF's environmental impact report, new campus buildings would have state-of-the-art laboratory safety features for managing potentially hazardous material to protect the staff and the surrounding community. UCSF would be required to extend community "right-to-know" and business plan requirements to meet data reporting requirements of the regulatory agencies.

UCSF Mission Bay at a glance

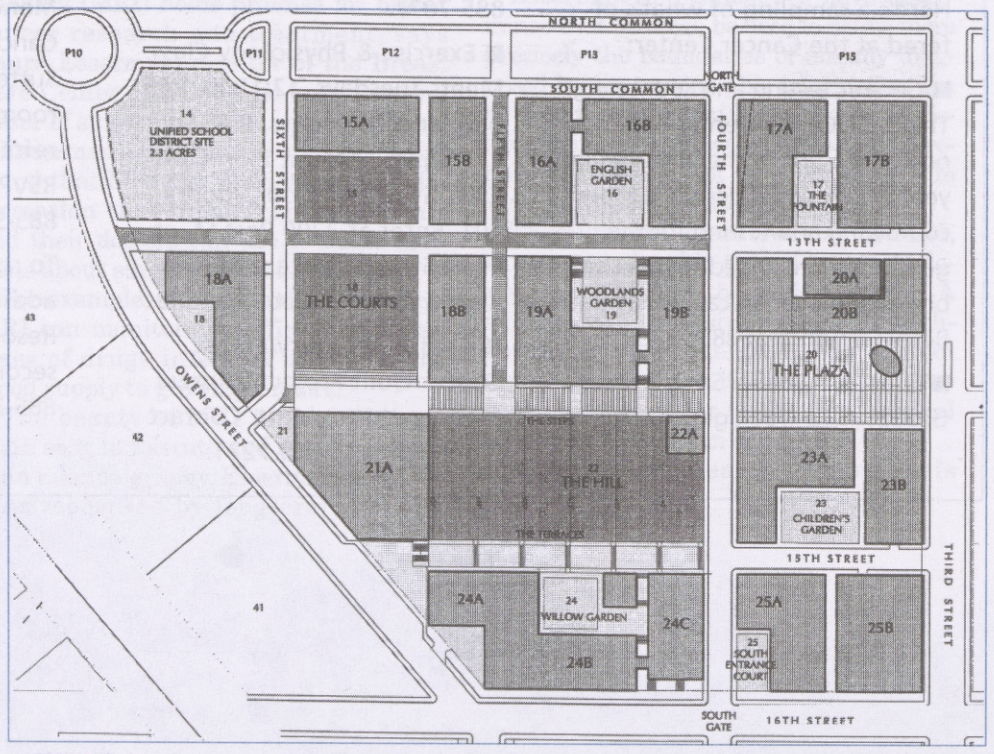
- Square footage: 2.65 million gross square feet at full buildout.
- Population: An estimated 9,100 persons at full buildout. This figure includes roughly 400 faculty, 5,400 professional researchers, 2,300 staff and 1,000 visitors/vendors.
- Construction timeline: Full buildout is expected to be phased in over the next 15 to 20 years, depending on future available funding and economic patterns. Groundbreaking on first buildings targeted for fall 1999.
- Programs: The majority of research will be within the basic sciences. First three buildings (totaling about 330,000 assignable square feet) will house Structural/Chemical Biology, Molecular/Cellular/Developmental Biology, Genetics and Neuroscience. Animal care will be developed as required for the research programs.
- Open space: At least eight acres of publicly accessible open space.
- Parking: About 4,600 spaces at full buildout. Construction of structured parking at various locations will be phased throughout campus development according to demand. Initially, parking will be available on surface lots.
- School: About 2.2 acres will be set aside for the San Francisco Unified School District for a public school site.
- Transportation: Additions to current public transit lines will serve the Mission Bay area, including the future MUNI Third Street light rail, projected to be operating around 2003. The UCSF shuttle will be provided during initial development and through build-out of the campus.
- Master planners: Machado and Silvetti Associates of Boston and Gordon H. Chong & Partners of San Francisco.

Mission Bay environmental issues

The City's draft SEIR cites no significant impacts on land use from the Mission Bay project as well as no significant environmental effects on business activity, employment, housing and population. Among other issues the report addresses:

- As expected, the project will add to the City's existing traffic congestion as well as increase demand for public transportation and parking. The project will promote public transportation policies and will be served by the MUNI Third Street light rail line by 2003.
- Motor vehicle exhaust emissions would be the primary source of air pollutants in Mission Bay. By 2015, however, more stringent vehicle emission standards would be in force, and it's expected that emissions would not exceed state or federal standards.
- A variety of regulatory mechanisms would govern the construction and operation of facilities emitting toxic air contaminants in the project area, including UCSF. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, for example, routinely reviews and screens for potential health risks from toxic air contaminants that exceed standard thresholds.
- To address emergency preparedness and response, it's recommended that a comprehensive emergency response plan be developed and that police and fire stations be located within the project area.
- Concentrations of contaminants in soil or groundwater do not present human health or ecological risks under existing conditions, with the exception of some petroleum product found in the vicinity of Illinois and 16th streets. Releases associated with former petroleum facilities will be further investigated and remediated as necessary regardless of whether the entire project is approved.
- By implementing a number of mitigation measures, it's expected that the project's contribution to the potential cumulative increase in sewer overflow volumes and cumulative stormwater discharges would be reduced to an insignificant level.
- Facilities using hazardous waste materials would be required to meet a range of health and safety planning standards and be subject to regulatory agency oversight.

Written comments on the City's draft report will be accepted through Tuesday, May 26. For more information about the environmental review of the Mission Bay project, call Paul Deutsch of the City's environmental review office at 558-6383. For more information about the Mission Bay project and process, call David Prowler of the Mayor's Office at 554-7940.



UCSF's Mission Bay campus master plan will include at least eight acres of open space. This draft of the proposed research campus shows several gardens as well as a large grassy area, dubbed "The Hill," which will offer views of the City skyline.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Fulbright student grants available

The 1999-2000 Fulbright US Student Program competition for study or research abroad for one academic year is now open.

Applicants may propose formal study, independent study, research or an unpaid internship, depending upon the requirements of the country's program in which they are interested.

All professional school and graduate students, as well as medical residents or other doctors who wish to continue medical or hospital training or to obtain additional practical clinical experience abroad are eligible. Applicants must be US citizens at the time of application and hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. All applicants must have sufficient proficiency in the language of the host country to carry out the proposed project.

Applications are available in International Academic Programs at 145 Irving St., Suite 103; the Graduate Division in MU 200 West; or Student Financial Services in MU 201 West. The campus deadline for submission is Friday, Sept. 4 in the Graduate Division. Call 502-2962 for information. See the Fulbright website at www.iie.org/fulbright/.

LPPI offers new group for stress reduction

The UCSF department of psychiatry is offering a new group treatment program for those who need help coping with stress. Beginning Tuesday, May 12, this eight-session program will teach participants to use mindfulness meditation to allow the body and mind to use its full potential for improved coping with chronic medical illness, chronic pain, stress and some types of psychiatric illness. This course is based on the teaching and research of Jon Kabat-Zinn of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. This class meets Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. through June 30, plus Saturday, June 20, at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, 401 Parnassus Ave. For more information, call Lynn Martin at 476-7406.

UCSF Stanford begins advertising

UCSF Stanford Health Care launched its first advertising campaign recently, designed to raise awareness of the new merged organization.

While the courtship and eventual marriage last November of the two medical enterprises made national headlines, the public, for the most part, remains unaware that the former competitors have come together.

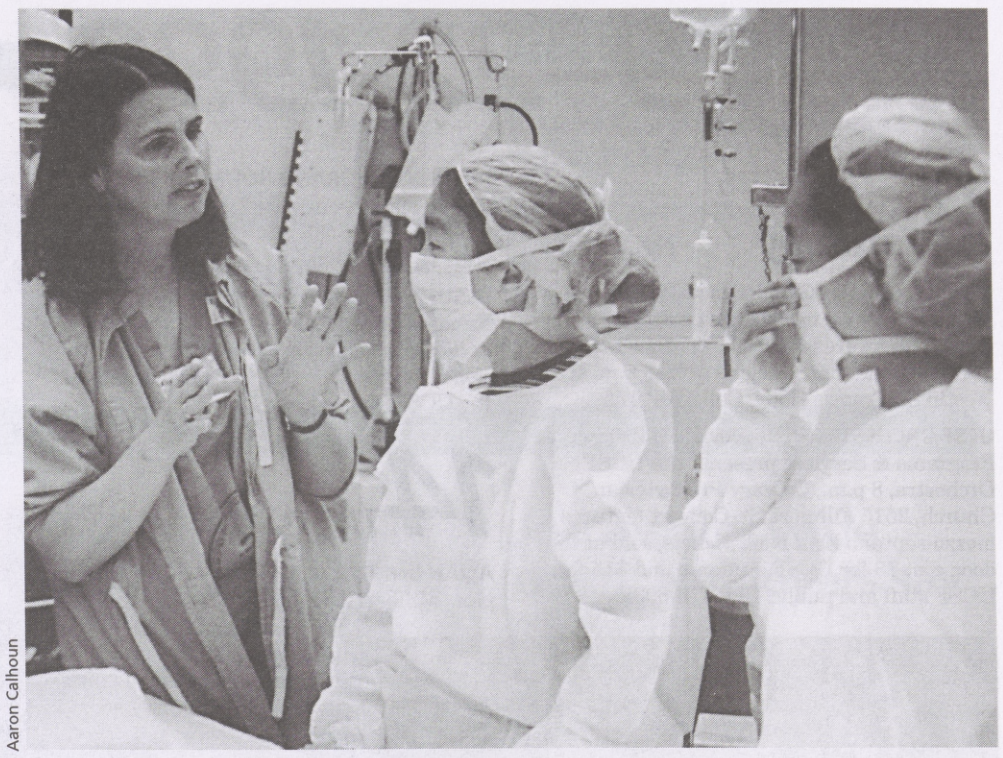
During a telephone survey this spring, only 7 percent of consumers polled recalled UCSF Stanford when asked to name health care systems, according to Transition Times.

Based on the theme "Great Things Happen Here" three TV spots, featuring patients who have benefited from care at all four UCSF Stanford hospitals, will run over the next several months during a wide variety of TV shows — from the daytime soaps to the evening news and occasional prime time program.

Print ads began running in Bay Area newspapers as well. The print ads highlight ways that UCSF Stanford is transforming medical care, with examples in pediatrics, cancer care and cardiac care.

The ads include a toll-free telephone number to call to find out more about UCSF Stanford's physicians and services. Callers will receive information on how to access UCSF Stanford through health plans. If a caller asks for a referral at UCSF or Stanford, operators will provide physician names at the requested location. Local callers who don't request a specific site will be referred to the nearest location. Those calling from long distances will be referred to either UCSF or Stanford on an alternate basis. Marketing specialists will be working with clinical departments to develop ways to triage calls across the campuses.

For more information regarding the physician referral process, please call Barbara Gideon, director of UCSF Stanford Health Care marketing, at 514-4637.



Aaron Calhoun

A lesson from Longley

Peggy Longley, a clinical nurse of UCSF Stanford Health Care, gave girls participating in UCSF's Take Our Daughters to Work Day a tour of the birth center at UCSF. Girls visited babies in the well baby nursery and intensive care and donned gowns for a mock delivery. This year's annual event brought 500 girls and 80 boys to learn about career opportunities at the health sciences campus.

MEDICAL CALL BOARD

Men with hair loss

The UCSF Hair Research Center is conducting a study on male pattern baldness. Men between the ages of 21 and 45 are needed to participate in a study that requires about eight visits. Participants must be in good general health and have dark (non-dyed) hair with good hair/scalp contrast. For more information, call 476-2572 or 476-3638 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Genetics of alcoholism

UCSF researchers are seeking families affected by alcoholism for a study on the genetics of alcoholism. At least two members of each family must be willing to participate and one must be alcoholic (still drinking or in recovery.) Study entails an interview, personality tests, and blood draw. Participants will be compensated $30 in cash. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Call toll free at 1-888-805-UCSF (8273) for a brief eligibility screening.

Epidural effect on fever

UCSF's Outcomes Research Group is seeking male volunteers for a study to evaluate the effects of epidural anesthesia on fever. Fever is induced by injection of the drug Interleukin-2. This is a four-day, randomly assigned study, consisting of two epidural anesthesia days and two non-anesthesia days. The length of each day ranges from 10 to 12 hours. The study days are typically scheduled five to seven days apart.

Participants must be in good health, between the ages of 18 and 35, a non-smoker, drug and medication free and of average weight for height. Participants will be paid a total of $775 for the entire four-day study. For more information, call Azita Moayeri, research coordinator, at 476-3169.

Chris T. Anderson

Life's a parade

Living true to the motto on his T-shirt which reads, "Life doesn't have to be all work," Red Mangio of Millberry Programs & Services dons a puppet outfit for the parade that proceeded down Parnassus for the UCSF Earth Day Fair on April 23. The annual event, sponsored by the UCSF Water and Energy Awareness Program, also offered rides in an electric car, the 1998 Toyota RAV4-EV.

Civility (from page 1)

"It's up to an individual to behave in a courteous and sensitive manner," Bainton says. "I'm really excited about this program. I hope that faculty, staff and students will attend. I think we can all improve our behavior if we're all aware of how to communicate honestly and effectively."

Barker, who spoke on the subject of civility at a meeting of the Council of UC Staff Assemblies at UC Irvine last March, says it's important that members of different subcultures find a way to talk to and carefully listen to each other.

For example, some staff may feel like they take a back seat to faculty, who embody the academic mission. And as such, staff may be reluctant to voice their feelings, which, stifled over time, may cause resentment to build.

Barker recommends that faculty and staff get to know each other in both formal and informal exchanges. He suggests that faculty and staff meet to share their feelings as a way to anticipate times of heightened tension and to find appropriate means of dealing with it.

Chancellor Haile Debas, dean of the School of Medicine, acknowledged the need to find ways to make people "feel good about coming to work" during his state of the campus address last year.

"UCSF has long been known for curing. I would like it to also now to be known for caring. And that includes our attitudes towards students and staff, who should be praised more often for keeping us honest, energized and productive," Debas said.

One way to stem any waves of ill will at UCSF is through the opening of a Problem Resolution Center where members of the campus community can turn to seek solutions to their problems at work or in class. "It provides a way to resolve issues and problems at the earliest stages," Debas said in his announcement of the center.

Renate Valencia, chair of UCSF Staff Council, is encouraged by the administration's action to promote a more nurturing workplace. "I think the culture is really ripe for us to raise the civility issue. I think it's important for the message to come from the top down."

For more information on Barker's presentation, please email Bell at davidb@lppi.ucsf.edu.

Problem Resolution Center to open

To nip conflicts in the bud, UCSF will open a Problem Resolution Center for those who would like to talk over their issues in a confidential environment.

Alma Sisco-Smith, director of the Sexual Harassment Prevention office, is acting director of the center, which is expected to be operating as an independent and neutral administrative unit this fall.

One of the first activities to be considered is developing a confidential and voluntary mediation services program.

The campus community is invited to make suggestions about services to be offered during the center's development period. Send comments to Sisco-Smith at Box 0402.

May 9–22, 1998

9 Saturday

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HOMECOMING: Morning lectures in Cole Hall, 8:30 a.m. to noon, with awards luncheon in MU Conference Center. Dinner dance begins at 7:15 p.m. at Westin St. Francis Hotel. Call 476-1471.

UCSF ORCHESTRA PERFORMS: Millberry Programs & Services presents the UCSF Orchestra, 8 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore St. Concert features mezzo-soprano Erin Neff. Tickets, sold at the door, cost $8 for UCSF students and $15 for UCSF staff and public. Call 476-6932.

11 Monday

HEALTH POLICY SEMINAR: Roslyn J. Leiser, study coordinator, Community Consortium of SFGH, presents *Nurses' Attitudes and Beliefs Toward Assisted Suicide,* noon-1:30 p.m., IHPS Seminar Room, 1388 Sutter St., 11th Flr. Sponsored by the Institute for Health Policy Studies and the Institute for Health & Aging.

DEAN'S RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES: Hugh O. McDevitt, visiting lecturer from Stanford University and Stephen E. Gitelman, UCSF department of pediatrics, present *The Pathogenesis and Prevention of Juvenile Diabetes,* 3:30-5 p.m., N 225. The seminar will be simulcast to the VAMC Building 203, Room 1A87, SFGH Medical Library and the UCSF/Mount Zion Executive Board Room.

SEP AWARDS CEREMONY: The Science & Health Education Partnership of UCSF sponsors the 11th Annual SEP Lesson Plan Contest Awards Ceremony, 4-6:30 p.m., Cole Hall. UCSF will recognize San Francisco Unified School District students and teachers for their winning efforts. A reception will follow in the Medical Sciences lobby. Call 502-6324.

12 Tuesday

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: 8:30-10:30 a.m., U 70. Call Leonard Florendo in Human Resources at 476-1073 to schedule.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: In celebration of Asian Pacific American Week, enjoy the film *Anatomy of a Springroll,* noon, N 729. Sponsored by Millberry Programs & Services. Call 476-6932.

BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOPHYSICS SEMINAR: Charles Zuker, departments of biology & neurosciences, UCLA, presents *G Protein Signaling: Lessons from Drosophila,* 4 p.m., HSW 301.

13 Wednesday

VIOLENCE TELECONFERENCE: See upcoming events.

BLOOD DRIVE: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mission Center Building. Call 476-6989.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Shirley Fong-Torres, Wok Wiz Chinatown Tours and Cooking Center, presents *How to Stir-Fry a Dream Job,* 12:10-1 p.m., HSW 300. Hear how a love for walking, talking and eating turned into a successful career for Fong-Torres. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

Shirley Fong-Torres

PSYCHIATRY GRAND ROUNDS: Psychiatrist Jim Reich presents *Panic Disorder of Borderline Traits and Suicide,* 1-2 p.m., LPPI Auditorium, Room 190.

RESUME WRITING: Rita Fornino of Garrison Randall Associates presents *Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills for Medical Professionals,* 4:30-6:30 p.m., N 729. Sponsored by the UCSF Nursing Student Council.

14 Thursday

ASIAN BONE MARROW DRIVE: 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Millberry Union Gym. Due to the Asian Donor Program's limited funding, only Asian donors will be typed at this drive. Any questions, call Stephanie Low at 476-4287.

ASIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL: Enjoy entertainment, food and cultural displays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., MU Gym.

PSYCHIATRY LECTURE: Sandra Hernandez and Francisco J. Gonzales present *Medical and Psychiatric Issues: Working with Latinos and with HIV/AIDS,* 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., SFGH 7M30 A & B.

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS: Bevra H. Hahn, professor of medicine, UCLA, presents *Progress in the Pathogenesis and Therapy of Systemic Lupus Erythematosis,* noon-1 p.m., N 225.

UC RETIREMENT MEETING: The Office of Benefits and Financial Planning will describe the features of the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP) and Defined Contribution Plan (DCP) and how they work, noon-1 p.m., MCB, Room 126. Call 476-1400.

ENRICHMENT SERIES: Lisa DiGiorgio-Haag, nurse practitioner, Stanford Health Services, presents *Ask Drs. Ruth: Panel on Women's Health Issues,* noon, N 217. Sexual and reproductive health are life-long concerns for women. Write questions for the presenters on the day of the program. Sponsored by the Office of Student Relations. Call 502-2442.

AIDS RESEARCH SEMINAR: Marc Hellerstein, associate professor of medicine and Haynes Sheppard, research scientist, California Dept. of Health Services present *T Cell Dynamics and HIV Pathogenesis,* 3:30-5 p.m., SFGH, Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology, library conference room, 5th floor.

COLE HALL CINEMA: Kung Fu Double Feature! *Enter the Dragon* 5:45 p.m. and *Operation Condor,* 7:45 p.m., Cole Hall Cinema. Cost is $2-3.50. Call 476-6932 or check the website at http://artsperf.ucsf.edu.

15 Friday

MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., UCSF Lakeshore Plaza, 1501 Sloat Blvd. Screening by appointment and doctor approval only. Call 476-2193. For other dates and locations, see page 5.

ASIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL: See May 14 event. Location is MCB. Call 476-6932.

WELLNESS LECTURE: Jeff Auen, founder, Blue Earth Foundation, presents *The Near Death Experience (NDE) as a Spiritual Initiation,* noon, HSW 300. Clinical research indicates that NDEs have increased over the past 30 years. During this talk, Auen will explore the spiritual history of NDEs, their connection to ancient initiation practices and to psychological transformation. Sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences. Free. Call 584-4416.

COLE HALL CINEMA: See May 14 listing. *Enter the Dragon,* 6:30 p.m. and *Operation Condor,* 8:30 p.m.

16 Saturday

SKIN CANCER SCREENING: UCSF dermatologists give free skin cancer screenings, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the third floor dermatology clinic of the Ambulatory Care Center building, 400 Parnassus Ave. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society. No appointment necessary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On preventing violence

The national satellite training program will explore the roots of violence and its relationship to other aspects of US culture in a Partnerships for Preventing Violence Teleconference on Wednesday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center. This teleconference is the first in a series of six to be offered on a semi-annual basis for the next three years. The conference is free. To register, call 1-888-525-6238. For a $6 box lunch or for more information, call 885-7671.

Women's health forum

The UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health invites the campus community to join the nation's top health leaders review the status of women's health during the first live Healthy People 2000 satellite broadcast on Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in HSW 301. David Satcher, US assistant secretary for health and surgeon general, will lead the review, which will be televised and linked to sites around the country

School of Medicine commencement

Commencement ceremonies will be held Friday, May 22, at 3 p.m. at Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. One of three nominees will receive the School's highest honor, the Gold-Headed Cane Award. This year's nominees are Christopher W. Covin, Simerjot K. Jassal and Monica R. Quezada.

Celebration concert

UCSF's finest jazz and classical musicians will perform a concert on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the Florence Gould Theatre, Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th Avenue at Clement Street. Proceeds benefit the UCSF Piano Group's Save the Steinway Fund. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the MU desk. Call 476-6932.

Pharmacy poster session

Residents and fellows summarize and present their research on posters for the annual School of Pharmacy display from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, May 29 in the Millberry Union Conference Center. Refreshments will be served.

Children's music recital

UCSF children and families come together to share the joys of music with the campus community at the first UCSF Young Artists Music Recital, to be held Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m., in the Lange Reading Room of the UCSF library. Tickets prices vary. Proceeds benefit the Save the Steinway Fund. Call 476-6761.

BENEFIT YARD SALE: The Marilyn Reed Lucia Child Care Study Center hosts annual yard sale fundraiser, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 610 Parnassus. The multi-family yard sale benefits the campus day-care facility. Coordinated by the Parents Group. Call 242-9042.

WALKING TOUR: Historian James Brown will conduct a walking tour on the background of the Zakheim murals, 10 a.m., Toland Hall. Call 883-3502.

PLUMBING WORKSHOP: Christina Bertea, a union-trained plumbing contractor, presents *De-Mystifying Your Home's Plumbing System,* 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Women's Resource Center, 100 Medical Center Way, G-Level. Learn how to turn on/off gas and water, clean drains, repair dripping faucets, running toilets and leaking p-traps. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Fee $40-60 sliding scale. Pre-registration is required. Call 476-5222.

TAILGATE PARTY & GIANTS GAME: EMPACT! is offering tickets for the UCSF Tailgate Party and On-Field Photo Day, Giants vs. The Mets, 1:05 p.m., 3Com Park. Bring your own BBQ goodies, drinks, etc. and EMPACT! will bring the pits, coals, etc. Call 476-6932.

GOSPEL CHOIR: Millberry Programs & Services presents the UCSF Gospel Choir, 7 p.m., 608 Hayes St. Cost is $5; tickets sold at the door. Donations are welcome. Call 476-6932.

18 Monday

HEALTH POLICY SEMINAR: Priscilla Abercrombie, ob/gyn and reproductive services, SFGH, presents *Drug and HIV Testing of Pregnant Women: Effects of Prevalence on Clinical Practice and Policy,* noon-1:30 p.m., IHPS Seminar Room, 1388 Sutter St., 11th Floor. Sponsored by the Institute for Health Policy Studies and the Institute for Health & Aging.

LANGLEY PORTER FRIENDS MEET: The Friends of Langley Porter will have their annual meeting and luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. at Harris' Restaurant, San Francisco. Sophia Vinogradov, assistant professor of psychiatry, will give an update on schizophrenia. Luncheon is $40. Call 476-7033.

GALLO LECTURE: The SFGH Foundation and Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology present the first annual *Merle Sande Lectureship, Polypeptides in HIV Infection, Protection, and Disease Development,* 4-5 p.m., SFGH, Carr Auditorium, Bldg. 3. A reception will follow the lecture, 5-6 p.m., in the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology Library, 5th Floor.

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: David Hwang, associate professor, ophthalmology and co-director, Cornea and Refractive Service, UCSF, presents *Better Vision Now,* 6 p.m., Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham. Learn new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astimatism. Call 476-5021.

19 Tuesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Sandy Bright, owner, Bright Ideas, and organizing and time management consultant, presents *Let's Get Organized,* noon-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion Herbst Hall. Relieve personal stress by managing time more effectively. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

SEMINAR: David Arnott of Genentech presents *Protein Differential Display and Mass Spectroscopy in the Study of Congestive Heart Failure,* 5-5:30 p.m. (coffee and conversation) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. (seminar), N 217. To reserve a seat, please send email to proteome@aol.com or call Cara Wykowski at 800-392-2164, ext. 9853. Hosted by The Bay Area Proteome Club.

20 Wednesday

WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM: See upcoming events.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Kate M. Garay, assistant clinical professor, physiological nursing, presents *Trauma Recovery: Optimal Healing After Severe Injury,* 12:10-1 p.m., HSW 300. Garay will discuss the long-term effects of severe physical injury (trauma) on the survivors, their families and caregivers, and the implications for health care practice and public policy. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

21 Thursday

LEARNING TO BE CIVIL: See page 1 for story.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Jane Mahakian, elder care specialist, child and elder care referral service, presents *Everything You Need to Know About Medicare and Medi-Cal,* noon-12:30 p.m., MCB, 6th Floor Board Room. This lecture will focus on the ins and outs of the Medicare and Medi-Cal System. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

ENRICHMENT SERIES: Michael Alvarez, UCSF Career Center, presents *Interview Skills,* noon, N 217. Learn how face-to-face dynamics of the interview are critical to the final outcome: job procurement. Get prepared to come to the table with self-assurance and equality. Sponsored by the Office of Student Relations. Call Maureen Conway at 502-2442.

Lisa Cisneros